Kashmir Liberation Army

342. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the guerilla organizations engaged in the Kashmir Jehad have decided to set up a "Kashmir Liberation Army" to put up a unified struggle against Indian Army to achieve their objectives;

(b) if so, whether the information about formation of the unified Kashmir Liberation Army is correct; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) In a bid to bring together various terrorist outfits operating in J&K, ISI is reportedly raising Kashmir Liberation Army under the leadership of one Sayyed Salauddin.

A constant watch is maintained on the situation both at the border as well as in the hinterland and all possible measures are taken to contain militancy in the State and to frustrate the designs of elements hostile to India.

Hiring of American Company for Mapping Andhra Coast

343. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item captioned "High-tech passion leads Naidu to yet another controversy" published in 'The Hindustan Times' dated the 9th June, 2000;

(b) if so, whether Government had objected to hiring of the American firm 'Space Imaging Inc.' by the Andhra Pradesh Government for mapping of 970 km. of Andhra coast using the Icons satellite;

(c) whether State Government needs clearance from any of the Central agencies for allowing/asking private foreign satellite companies to undertake such commercial ventures;

(d) if so, the details thereof in the present case; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Government of Andhra Pradesh is implementing Andhra Pradesh Hazard Mitigation Emergency Cyclone Recovery Project with World Bank assistance, for which GIS data base has to be created by using topographical maps and thematic maps generated using satellite data. Government of Andhra Pradesh permitted Andhra Pradesh State Remote Sensing Application Centre (APSRAC), Hyderabad to procure high resolution satellite data from M/s. Space Imaging Corporation, USA. However the State Government could not open

Letter of Credit as it found that clearance of Ministry of Defence was required for procurement and dissemination of satellite data less than 5.0 M resolution. It was informed by NRSA and ISRO that Department of Space would be the nodal agency for procurement and supply of high resolution data. Ministry of Defence have accorded clearance to APSRAC for digitization of unrestricted topographical maps already published by Survey of India under existing parametres and conditions. As regards other map sheets, they have been advised to obtain required digitized data from Survey of India.

Dowry Deaths

†344. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of incidents of harassment of new brides for dowry, instigating them to commit suicide and killing them by their-in-laws in Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab which occurred since January, 1999;

(b) the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government are considering to make the present laws more stringent in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Information received from National Crime Records Bureau in this regard is given in the statement (annexed). *(See* below)

(b) to (d) 'Police' and 'Public Order' being State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes is essentially the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has, from time to time, been writing to the State Governments emphasising the need to take measures in order to check the menace of crime against women. The measures suggested by the Central Government include, *inter alia*, appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers setting up of Women Cells in police stations, wider recruitment of police officers and gender sensitisation training to police personnel. The Central Government has also been stressing upon the State Governments the need to ensure implementation of the existing laws, both in letter and spirit, and to bring about an awareness in the general public about the law/instructions regarding anti-dowry and other connected matters. The media is being used to project the positive role of women in society. Section 304 B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 provides for stringent punishment for dowry death. At present, there is no proposal to amend this Section.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.